PEOPLE RISING FOR JUSTICE AND LIBERATION

THIS WORLD IS OURS!

RESIST
RECLAIM
RISE UP
FOR SYSTEM CHANGE!

RECLAIM OUR RIGHTS AND FUTURE FROM THE IMF AND WORLD BANK AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE

From September to November, movements all over the world are coming together in an arc of mobilizations to address governments, international institutions, and corporation during four key global moments - the UN General Assembly in September, the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings in October, and the UNFCCC COP31 and G20 Summit in November.

From October 12 to 18, we will mobilize for a Global Week of Action to include an International People's Summit in Bangkok and coordinated solidarity actions across the globe on October 16 under the banner of ***"People Rising for Justice and Liberation."***

We gather to denounce eight decades of structural economic violence, ecological destruction, and inequalities perpetuated by the IMF and the World Bank as part of a global system driven by the interests of elites and corporations to accumulate wealth and power. A system that exploits and sacrifices people, communities and the environment, that uses conflict and wars for the preservation and expansion of political and economic power. We will amplify the messages and themes of national and local actions taking place across regions, elevating the direct voices and frontline testimonies of the people on the ground.

We build directly upon historic and continuing campaigns that denounce eighty years of Bretton Woods dominance. These institutions have systematically violated human rights, perpetuated illegitimate debt, and enforced austerity and neoliberal policies that weaken Global South economies. By promoting fossil fuel extraction and unjust, regressive taxation, these frameworks exacerbate economic inequality, add to the already heavy burdens that women bear through diminished public services, and accelerate climate breakdown and environmental destruction across vulnerable communities.

Our struggles are inextricably linked as we fight to profoundly transform deeply unjust conditions, and work towards building economic and financial systems that nurture all life and uphold planetary survival.

- Loan conditionalities that include austerity, severe cuts in social service and social protection budgets, and regressive taxes create even greater misery. They result in mass unemployment, deepening inequality, wage stagnation, and a worsening cost-of-living crisis overall. Women are particularly impacted as their care labors multiply several fold. Debt servicing – including on illegitimate debts or loans harmful to people and the planet – routinely drains vital public spending on healthcare, education, housing and climate adaptation in the Global South, while structurally entrenching commodity dependency and fossil fuel lock-in. “Solutions” offered by Global North governments and international financial institutions have failed to require private creditors to participate in even minimal debt relief, and as a result, enabled them to be bailed out by new loans. Global South countries remain vulnerable to predatory interest rates, which have often led to more fossil extraction to raise foreign exchange for debt repayment. Meanwhile, they push regressive flat taxes that burden the poor while actively discouraging wealth taxes on elites, fair corporate taxation and other progressive taxation.

  Structural adjustment conditionalities hollow out democratic governance and often bypass national parliamentary oversight on fiscal decisions. Resources are diverted away from social protection toward militarization, surveillance, corporate policing, war, and the violent suppression of labor, civic, Indigenous, and environmental defenders.

- IFIs systematically push the privatization and financialization of essential sectors—water, land, electricity, education, housing and healthcare—through structural and policy conditionalities, systemic starving of public service funds and wage bills, their relentless “private finance first” agenda and profit-driven Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) that lock the public budget into US dollar-denominated contracts, turning basic human rights into commodities and obstructing the enjoyment of these rights especially for low-income populations.

- International financial institutions (IFIs) directly drive climate breakdown by pouring billions into project financing, technical assistance, loan guarantees, and de-risking for dirty fossil fuel infrastructure. At the same time, the overlapping crises of debt and regressive taxation intersect with a green industrial transition driven by corporate extractivism. This dynamic concentrates high-value processing and manufacturing in the Global North while locking Global South countries to raw material extraction deemed of low value in the global market. Furthering this trend, the World Bank Group and other multilateral development banks (MDBs)—such as the ADB and IDB—are preparing to back nuclear energy expansion, creating a dangerous, costly distraction from decentralized renewable solutions.

  Crucially, even where formal "no coal" exclusion policies exist at MDBs, they usually apply only to direct project-level financing. They fail to restrict general-purpose corporate loans or funding channeled through financial intermediaries, leaving a massive loophole for continued fossil fuel support.

- Aggressive critical mineral and rare earth mining for energy transition tech displaces Indigenous Peoples, destroys fragile ecosystems, violates Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), and undermines local food sovereignty. IFIs consistently ignore ongoing notices, formal complaints, and tribunal verdicts demanding reparations for affected Indigenous, peasant, labor, and frontline communities.

- Industrial agriculture is built on land grabbing and destroys sustainable local seed systems and agroecological farming practices. It mandates market deregulation that exposes peasants, vulnerable communities and consumers to food import dependency and volatile prices.

- Austerity measures such as aggressive budget cuts and regressive reforms hit impoverished and low-income groups hardest. Women take up the care work by default when public services are withdrawn, deepening their income and time poverty. In direct violation of international human rights standards, these policies dismantle social support systems, ultimately exacerbating women's multiple burdens of unpaid care, subsistence and social reproduction.

- Austerity, along with extractivism weaken labor protections, suppress wages, necessitate violations of trade union rights, undermine collective bargaining, and destroy livelihoods. Destabilized by economic distress, climate disasters, and displacement, millions of workers are forced into precarious global labor migration pathways where they face systemic exploitation, xenophobia, and the denial of basic labor rights.

- These intersecting fiscal, climate, and social crises dramatically widen the gap between the global billionaire class and the working majority, deepening structural wealth concentration both within nations and between the Global North and Global South.

- Opaque Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanisms - including ICSID hosted by the World Bank - actively undermine democratic mandates for greater climate and environmental action, threatening governments with expensive lawsuits and fines on behalf of private investors. Instead, fossil profiteers should be forced to pay reparations to Global South communities for destroying ecosystems and the climate.

The IMF and WB often collaborate with international organizations like the OECD in pushing agendas and policies that serve the interests of the richest countries and corporations. The IMF has been known to pressure countries of the Global South to accept OECD's taxation frameworks, often at the price of economic sovereignty. The OECD stands at the helm of an international tax architecture that has enabled the accumulation of wealth in the hands of the elite countries and corporations, and the shifting of profits extracted from the Global South to the Global North.

Together, the IMF, the WB and the OECD, along with other international institutions and forums like the G7 and G20, work to ensure that the global economic system that protects the interests of corporations and billionaires, and that global economic governance is retained in the clutches of the world's richest and most powerful countries.As movements rising for justice and liberation, our resistance targets the broader global economic architecture and the geopolitical structures that enforce it through violence and war. Institutions such as the IMF, World Bank, World Trade Organization (WTO), regional development banks, private credit rating agencies, and commercial lenders continuously prioritize profits over people and planet. Together, they perpetuate predatory debt traps, enforce extractivism, impose inequitable trade, and entrench neo-colonial dependence.

This global inequality crisis is further intensified by an accelerating war economy and a renewed nuclear arms race. While debt-distressed countries are pressured to slash public spending on healthcare, education, social protection, and climate resilience, vast public resources—along with substantial capital from private financial institutions—continue to fund arms production and nuclear modernization. Ultimately, a truly just global financial architecture must be anchored in peace, universal disarmament, democratic fiscal oversight, and the redirection of capital toward human and planetary security.

We demand an immediate, structural overhaul of international finance, global trade, and economic governance:

1. **Unconditional debt cancellation and reparations:** Immediate and unconditional cancellation of debts claimed from the Global South across all creditors (including private lenders and multilateral banks). These include cancellation of unsustainable and illegitimate debts that have and continue to harm people, communities and the planet. IMF surcharge fees and austerity conditionalities must be immediately stopped. We demand full financial and climate reparations for historical and continuing economic, social, and ecological and climate damage caused by centuries of colonialism and corporate extractivism.

2. **Democratize Debt Governance:** We need a UN Framework Convention on Sovereign Debt. The unfair global debt architecture, centred on the IMF and G20, gives no voice to borrower countries and has perpetuated a tightening cycle of debt crises, with no binding principles on responsible lending and borrowing. We must continue to thwart those blocking deep changes in global debt governance and advance the push for a UN Framework Convention on Sovereign Debt, as part of our fight to transform a deeply unjust international financial architecture.

3. **Tax justice and inclusive and democratic tax governance under the UN:** An immediate end to regressive taxation schemes that penalize the poor. We demand a binding, democratic, and transparent global tax architecture established under the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation to eliminate tax havens, crack down on illicit financial flows, enforce unitary progressive taxation on corporate profits and high-net-worth wealth, and fair allocation of taxing rights across countries to ensure adequate public resources for essential services and climate action.

4. **Just transition, food sovereignty, and an end to green extractivism:** An immediate and complete halt to all multilateral financing for fossil fuels (coal, oil, and gas) and nuclear energy across every financing modality, including direct project-level funding, general-purpose corporate lending, and financial-intermediary-routed support. History shows that narrow, project-level exclusions are easily bypassed. Any policy must close these loopholes entirely. Alongside this, we demand a total end to predatory, corporate-led critical mineral mining and a worker- and community-led just transition toward publicly owned, managed renewable energy. This transition must respect the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Peoples, halt land grabbing, protect local seed systems, and guarantee food sovereignty over industrial agribusiness models.

5 **Universal public services and recognition of care as a human right and public good.** Reversal of all forced privatization mandates and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in essential sectors. Governments must guarantee fully funded, universal, and accessible public health and social care, education, water, sanitation, and electricity—alongside universal public social protection systems that redistribute and reward unpaid care work, upholding care as human right and public good.

6 **Labor rights, fair trade, and protection for migrant workers:** Guarantee living wages, formalization, and full freedom of association and collective bargaining for all workers, regardless of employment status. Proactive measures to increase trade union density are required to redress decades of union busting. We demand an end to trade and investment regimes that enforce unequal division of labor, as well as full human and labor rights, safe mobility pathways, and equal protection under the law for all migrant workers.

7 **Democratic Governance of Data, AI, and Digital Infrastructure:** Develop AI models and digital infrastructure designed for the public good rather than private, extractive profits. We demand a global "CERN for AI" model built on solidarity, non-competition, human rights, decent work, and accountable governance—regulated by the UN and national governments to prevent job destruction and instead ensure automation creates meaningful leisure time for workers, addressing the urgent youth employment crisis facing Gen Z globally.

Digital transformation must not compromise climate and Just Energy Transition commitments. AI adoption, cloud computing, and data center expansion must never be used to justify new coal or fossil fuel capacity, nor can they drive predatory critical mineral extraction. Banks, IFIs, and financial intermediaries funding digital infrastructure must be held strictly to fossil-fuel exclusion policies and human rights standards across all lending modalities—including general-purpose corporate loans and intermediary channels.

Furthermore, governments and corporations must embed mandatory, rights-based safeguards aligned with international standards like the UNGPs into all digital development. This requires guaranteeing timely, transparent, and meaningful consultations with civil society organizations, public bodies, and affected communities—including their right to divest from harmful projects. To prevent widening economic gaps, digital growth must actively bridge the digital divide, protect civic space, and preserve accessible offline alternatives for essential public services, while strictly prohibiting the deployment of AI and digital infrastructure for militarization, mass surveillance, or an accelerating digital arms race.

8 **End the war and genocide:** An immediate end to all wars, genocides, foreign occupations, and military aggression. World military spending has soared past $2.7 trillion a year, the money that 'does not exist' for health, education and social protection is found without difficulty for weapons. We demand the total reallocation of global financial flows away from weapon production, war economies, and corporate policing toward social protection, loss and damage funds, climate adaptation, and human resilience.

9 **Protection of civic space, human rights, and sovereignty:** An immediate halt to the criminalization, surveillance, and violent suppression of labor, civic, Indigenous, peasant, feminist, and environmental defenders. We demand full restoration of national policy space, parliamentary fiscal oversight, and democratic governance free from IFI interference.

WE ARE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, TRADE UNIONS, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY MEMBERS WORLDWIDE UNITING FOR THE GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION THIS OCTOBER 16. GUIDED BY OUR COLLECTIVE STRENGTH, WE STAND AS PEOPLE RISING FOR JUSTICE AND LIBERATION!